

## **Press Release**

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### **Sandra Sieber Receives JWOD Award for Service**

Arlington, VA – Sandra Sieber was honored today by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee) for her three-year term as the Department of the Army Committee member and her support to the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. Providing jobs to more than 46,000 people who are blind or have other severe disabilities, the JWOD Program is the single largest source of employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States.

"It has been my pleasure to work with Sandy Sieber during these three years. A subject matter expert, she and her staff were instrumental in promoting the JWOD Program agency-wide, and the Committee staff often sought her advice and input on Army contracts issues," said Andrew Houghton, Committee Chairperson.

Sieber was appointed by President Bush in 2003 to the Committee. She also has the distinction of being the founding leader of the Army Contracting Agency.

Sieber has supported the sale of JWOD products through the numerous Base Supply Centers on Army installations, and the Army ensured that its office supplies blanket purchase agreements (BPAs) made distributing JWOD products one of the non-negotiable requirements. Sieber has also made significant contributions to the development of the JWOD Program Strategic Plan, and she actively clarified contracting issues as a result of her participation on the Committee's Governance Subcommittee.

The plaque and Committee coin with presentation box were presented at the NIB National Training Conference in Scottsdale, AZ.

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The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is an independent Federal agency that administers the JWOD Program, which creates employment opportunities for persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. The Committee's primary means of achieving its employment goal is through orchestrating Government purchases of supplies and services from nonprofit agencies employing such individuals.

National Industries for the Blind is one of the two national, nonprofit organizations designated by the Committee to assist in the implementation of the JWOD Program.

Together with NISH, which serves people with a range of disabilities, these two agencies assist over 600 community-based nonprofit agencies participate in the JWOD Program.